

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. RN-00-2
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**ORDER APPROVING RATE CASE NOTIFICATION
AND WAIVING 199 IAC 7.4(1)"c"(1)**

(Issued March 3, 2000)

On January 31, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S West), filed a proposed form of notice to send to its business customers in Iowa to notify them of a rate case U S West intends to file. In that filing, U S West will propose rate rebalancing and deaveraging, which (if approved by the Board) will result in increases for some rates and decreases for other rates.

The Board finds that U S West's proposed form of notice complies with the requirements of Iowa Code § 476.6(5) (1999). The notice does not include certain language normally required by the Board's rules, 199 IAC 7.4(1)"c"(1), but the Board finds that under the unusual circumstances of this case, as described in the proposed notice filing, it is appropriate to waive the requirements of the rule. U S West describes this as a rate-rebalancing case, rather than a general rate case, making some of the language from the general rate notice rules inapplicable. Moreover, if U S West were required to include percentage change calculations for the major services involved in this proposal, the combination of rate changes and

rate group re-alignments would apparently require that nine separate tables be prepared and sent to customers to show all the possible permutations. The Board finds that sending nine separate tables to customers for them to sort out would be unlikely to improve the customers' understanding of the U S West proposal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The proposed form of rate case notice filed by U S West on January 31, 2000, and identified by the Board as Docket No. RN-00-2 is approved.
2. The Board's rule regarding standard rate case notice forms, 199 IAC 7.4(1)"c"(1), is waived as applied to this proposed notice.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 3rd day of March, 2000.